
If you believe you are eligible to vote and encounter difficulty registering, please contact the Elections Department of the Arizona Secretary of State:

Elections Department	Secretary of State
tel: 602-542-8683	1700 W Washington St
fax: 602-542-6172	Phoenix, AZ 85007
toll-free: 877-843-8683	tel: 602-542-4285
	toll-free: 800-458-5842

If the Arizona Secretary of State is unable to help you, or to report a problem, contact:

U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Voting Section, Rm. 7254 - NWB
Washington, D.C. 20530
202-307-2767 (voice)
800-253-3931 (toll-free)
202-307-3961 (fax)
www.usdoj.gov/crt

This pamphlet is provided for informational purposes only, as an aid to further inquiry. The laws in many states are revised frequently, and may have changed since this pamphlet was issued. It is your responsibility to determine whether you are lawfully eligible to vote, and criminal penalties can result from voting when ineligible or making false statements on a registration form.

Issued December, 2000

U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division



Restoring Your Right to Vote



The right to vote is an important civil right in a democracy as well as a civic responsibility, and yet many persons who have been convicted of a crime do not know whether they are eligible to vote. For both federal and state elections, the right to vote is controlled by the law of the state in which you live. Some states restrict the right to vote for persons who have been convicted of a crime. This pamphlet is intended to help you determine whether you are eligible to vote in the state in which you live, and if so, what steps you must take to be permitted to vote.

What law governs whether my felony conviction limits my right to vote?

The impact of a criminal conviction on the right to vote varies widely from state to state. Whether you can vote after being convicted of a crime is determined by the state in which you live, not the state in which you were convicted.

Can I vote while I'm incarcerated in Arizona?

If you are a resident of Arizona, you cannot vote in Arizona elections while you are incarcerated as a result of a felony conviction. If you are a resident of another state who is temporarily incarcerated in Arizona, you may be able to vote by absentee ballot in your home state. You need to consult the law of your home state regarding both criminal convictions and absentee ballots to see if this is a possibility.

I have been released from incarceration. How do I restore my right to vote?

In Arizona, if you are a first time offender, your right to vote is automatically restored upon absolute discharge from incarceration or completion of parole or probation.

If you have been convicted of two or more felonies in Arizona, your right to vote is not

automatically restored upon your absolute discharge from incarceration or completion of parole or probation. Instead, you must apply to the court that sentenced you to obtain restoration of your right to vote. If your felony convictions resulted in a prison sentence, you must wait until two years after your unconditional release from incarceration or completion of parole before you can apply. If your felony convictions resulted in a sentence of probation, you may apply for restoration of your voting rights immediately upon discharge from probation.

What if my conviction was for a federal crime?

The same rules apply for first time offenders whether you were convicted of a federal or a state crime. If you were convicted of two or more federal crimes, you may still apply to have your rights restored. However, instead of applying to the sentencing court, you must apply to the presiding judge of the Superior Court in the County where you reside.

What if I was convicted in another state?

If you are a first time offender, your right to vote is automatically restored upon absolute discharge from incarceration or completion of parole or probation. However, if you have been convicted of more than one felony in a state other than Arizona, Arizona does not have any provisions for restoring your right to vote in Arizona.

What happens if I move to another state?

If you move to another state, your right to vote will be controlled by the laws of that state.

What are Arizona's other voter registration requirements?

To vote in Arizona, you must be a U.S. citizen at least 18 years of age on or before the date of an election. You must also be a resident of Arizona for 29 days preceding an election.

When do I need to register to vote?

Registration is available year-round in Arizona, but you must register 29 days prior to an election to be eligible to vote in that election.

Where do I go to register?

Registration is available at many places in Arizona, including:

- County recorder's office
- Post offices and libraries
- Driver's license facilities

Registration may also be available at other state service agencies. Contact the county recorder office near you to find out which service agencies provide voter registration. You can find the county recorder office nearest to you and request a registration form online:

www.sosaz.com/election/VoterRegistration.htm

For any other questions about voter registration, you can call the toll-free Voter Registration Hotline:

1-877-THE-VOTE (1-877-843-8683)